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Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in Public Procurement

Capacity building session

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Welcome & Agenda

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Agenda



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Time	Agenda points
12:00 - 12:15	Welcome, introduction to the agenda, ice-breaker
12:15 - 12:30	Introduction to HRDD in Public Procurement
12:30 - 13:00	Share your experience - What is your story?
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 14:15	Different tools available
14:15 - 15:00	Brainstorming session 1. Introduction to the exercise 2. Division of the group into 3 subgroups 3. Analysis of the case
15:00 - 15:30	Plenary session
15:30 - 15:45	Final discussion & remarks

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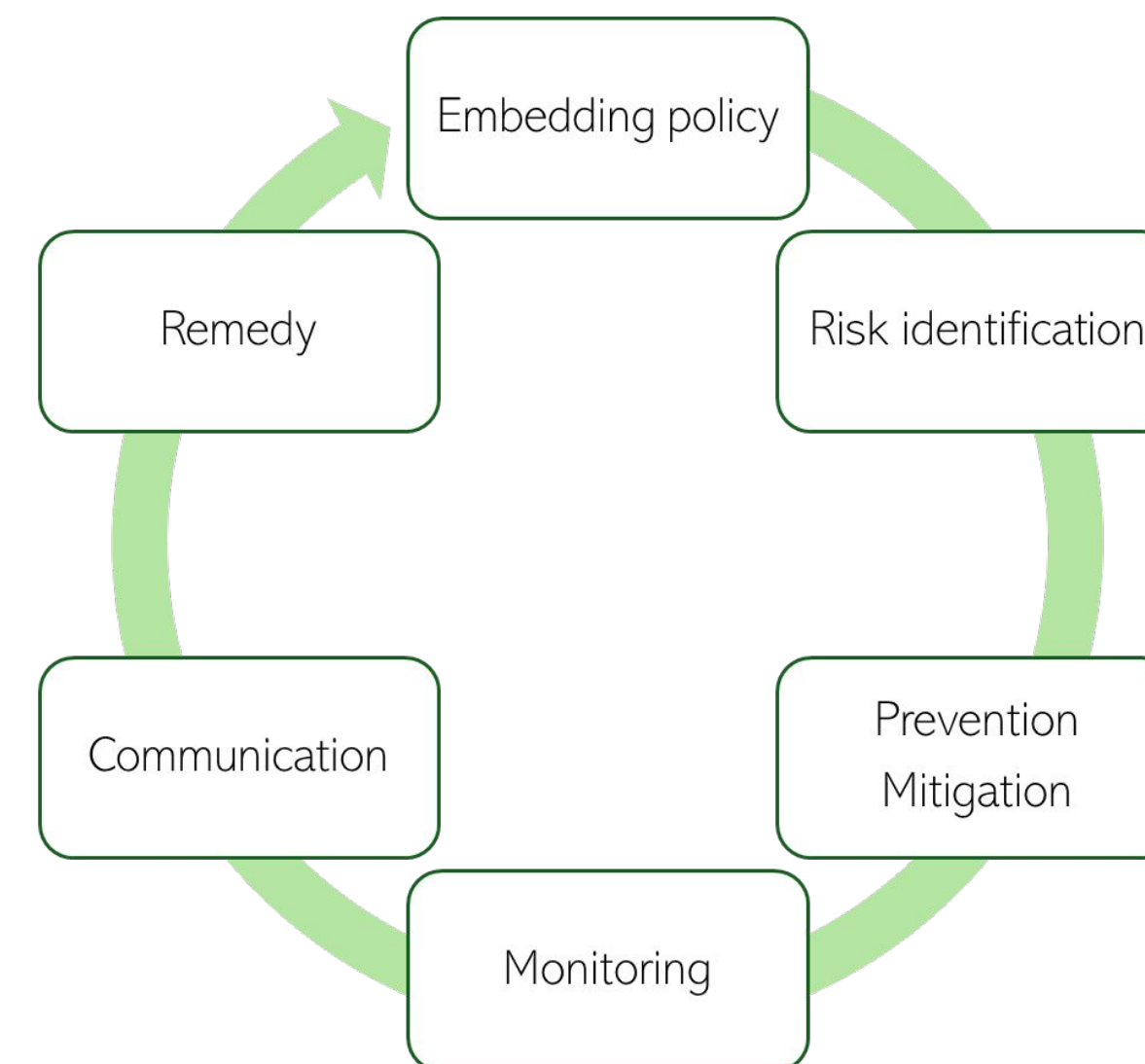
What is Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD)?

- Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) is the ongoing process of **identifying, preventing, mitigating**, and **accounting** for adverse human rights impacts across an organisation's operations and supply chains (*UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011)*)
- It is a **continuous, risk-based and proportionate process** that applies across an organisation's operations and business relationships, including supply chains.
- It **focuses on risks to people**, and on ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed, monitored, and where necessary, remedied.

HRDD is essential because it helps prevent and address serious harms to people in global supply chains, such as forced labour, child labour, and unsafe conditions. It enables organisations and states to demonstrate accountability and transparency, fulfilling their responsibility to respect human rights. Increasingly, HRDD is not just good practice but a legal obligation, making it a cornerstone of sustainable and responsible business conduct.

Key Documents on HRDD

1. [UN Guiding Principles \(2011\)](#): States must protect, businesses must respect human rights; Principle 6 links this directly to public procurement.
2. [OECD Due Diligence Guidance \(2018\)](#): Sets out the six-step HRDD process, equally relevant for public buyers.
3. [OECD Report \(2020\)](#): Shows how HRDD fits across the procurement cycle (planning, tendering, contracting, monitoring).
4. [DIHR Toolkit \(2020\)](#): Provides practical checklists, clauses, and tools for procurement officials.
5. [OECD Policy Paper \(2024\)](#): Highlights shift from voluntary standards to binding legal obligations, requiring public buyers to lead by example.



Why HRDD in Public Procurement?



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Public procurement = 14% of GDP in Europe → enormous market leverage.

HRDD moves procurement beyond cost efficiency → it becomes a tool to tackle forced labour, child labour, and unsafe working conditions.

Public procurement accounts for a significant portion of public spending in Europe, giving governments considerable influence over markets and supply chains. With the adoption of the [EU Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence \(CSDDD\)](#) and related national laws, **HRDD in public procurement is increasingly becoming a matter of legal compliance.**

The incorporation of HRDD transforms public procurement from a purely administrative process into a strategic tool.

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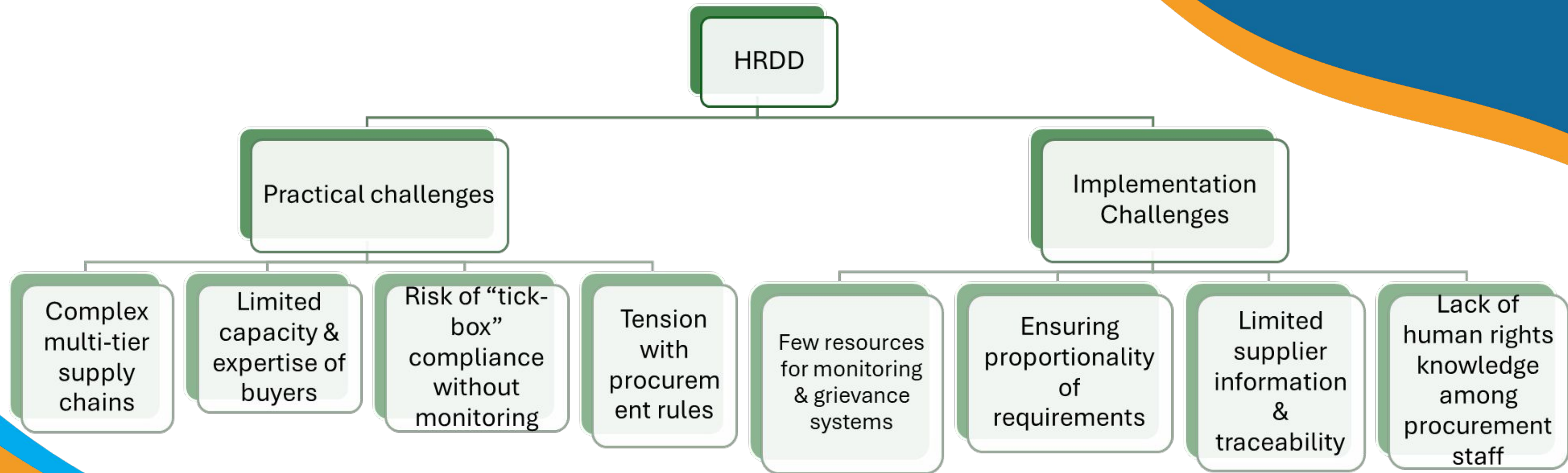
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Challenges



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Case studies



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Sweden

Sweden combines **national guidance with local monitoring** to institutionalise HRDD in procurement.

The Swedish National Agency for Public Procurement issues detailed **guidelines, model clauses, and tools to help contracting authorities integrate labour and human rights standards, focusing on high-risk categories such as ICT, construction, and textiles.**

At the local and regional level, the central purchasing body Adda runs the **Sustainability Check** (Hållbarhetskollen), launched in 2011 after *NGO reports on abuses in glove and ICT supply chains* → This system monitors suppliers through questionnaires, office audits, and on-site inspections in producer countries.

Each year, two to three risk categories are prioritised, with results and corrective **action plans** published online.

A national secretariat and regional coordinators provide additional expertise in human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, ensuring that corrective actions are followed up and HRDD leads to real improvements rather than paper compliance.

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Switzerland

Several cantonal and municipal authorities – including Zurich – have **embedded HRDD into their ICT procurement through collaboration with Electronics Watch**, a worker-driven monitoring organisation. This initiative *emerged after concerns over forced labour, unsafe conditions, and excessive overtime in electronics production.*

Swiss buyers include **contract clauses** that require suppliers of laptops, servers, and other ICT hardware to **disclose supply chain information and accept independent monitoring of production sites**. Monitoring involves worker interviews, factory visits, and grievance mechanisms led by local civil society partners in producing countries. When issues are found, Electronics Watch works with both suppliers and contracting authorities to develop corrective action plans.

The model is supported by collective leverage: multiple Swiss authorities pool their purchasing power, share monitoring results, and reduce duplication. This approach allows relatively small public buyers to implement credible HRDD despite limited in-house resources.

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Share your experience: What is your story?

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Toolkit Approach (Practical Application)



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The **Danish Institute for Human Rights Toolkit (2020)** was created to help procurement officers move from principles to practice.

It translates the UNGPs and OECD Due Diligence Guidance into the **daily tasks of public buyers**.

The **toolkit focuses on high-risk procurement categories such as textiles, ICT, construction, and catering**, where human rights risks are systemic. It provides practical instruments.

How to use the DIHR Toolkit:

Risk Screening: identify high-risk categories

Tender design: embed HRDD into criteria & clauses

Award & contract: include enforceable obligations

Contract management: monitor compliance & require corrective actions

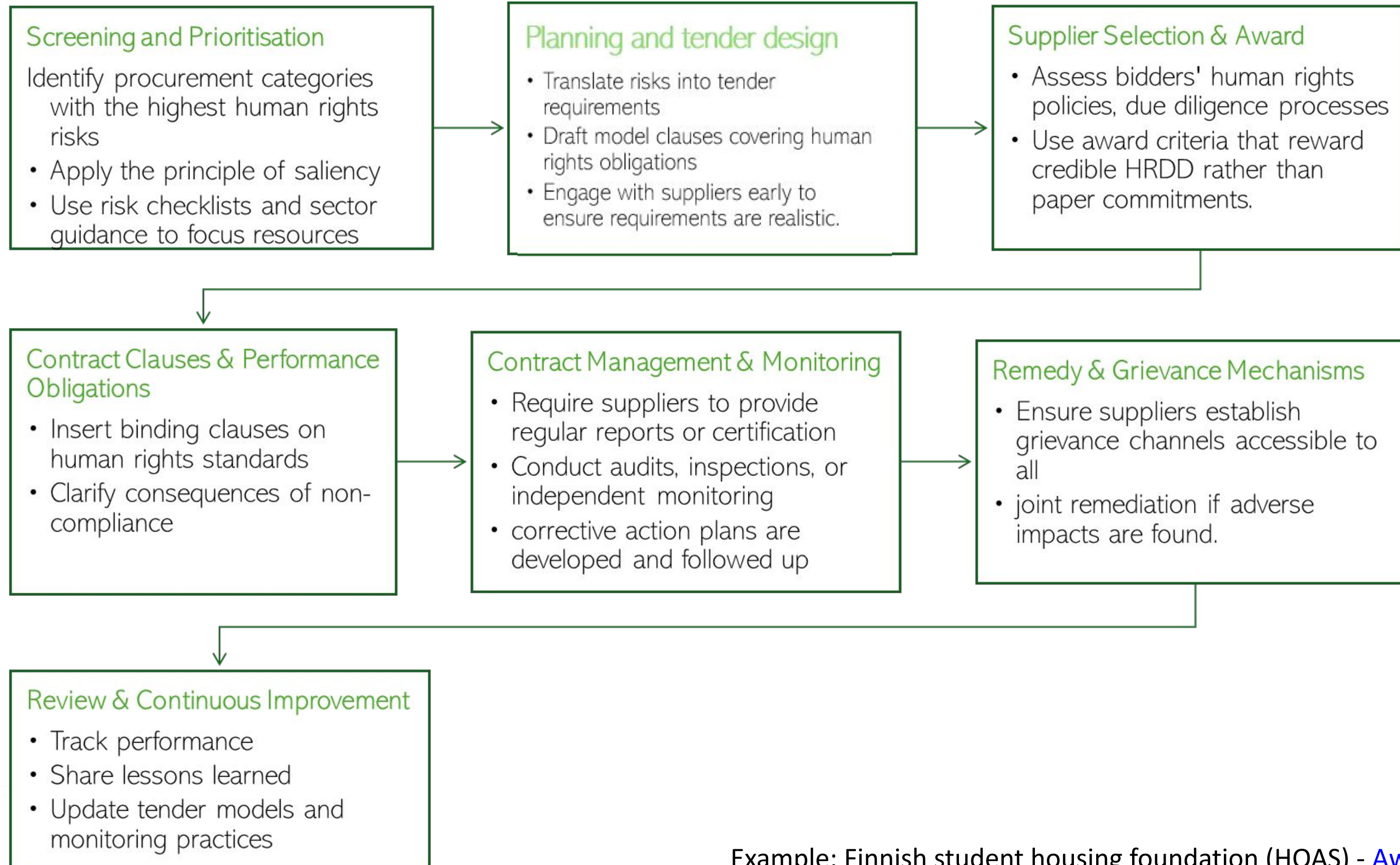
Remedy: establish channels for grievances

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Toolkit Approach (cont.)



Example: Finnish student housing foundation (HOAS) - [Aware worksite concept](#).



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Group exercise - HRDD “challenge”

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HRDD in Action: Scenario-Based Group Exercise



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Group 1

- Embedding HRDD in an Organisation

Your authority must align ICT procurement with the new EU CSDDD:

1. Which functions (procurement, legal, compliance, HR, sustainability) should lead and how do they coordinate?
2. What resources and partnerships are needed to build credible HRDD capacity?
3. How to integrate HRDD into procurement rules and procedures without overburdening?
4. What should be prioritised first: sector focus, supplier tiers, or internal governance?

Group 2

- Responding to an identified risk

An NGO reports child labour in your ICT supplier's subcontractor. Media demand contract termination:

1. What is the immediate and responsible first step (engage, verify, suspend)?
2. How should the authority balance contractual obligations with responsibility to workers?
3. What remedy options should be considered for affected children and workers?
4. How to manage communication and accountability while protecting credibility?

Group 3

- Monitoring and improvement

After 2 years, supplier reports are weak, with little proof of progress on labour rights:

1. What monitoring mechanisms beyond self-reporting can ensure credibility (independent audits, worker-driven monitoring)?
2. What incentives or sanctions can drive improvements?
3. In what ways can collaboration with other buyers increase leverage and reduce duplication?
4. How to feed lessons into the next procurement cycle?



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Plenary Session

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